MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
13 AND 14 SEPTEMBER 1956

THURSDAY

ORDER OF BUSINESS

9:~~30~~ a.m. Convene, Room 7000 Interior Department Building.

(1) a. Minutes of meeting 14 June 1956.

b. Date of next meeting--3 & 4 October or 10 & 11 October 1956

c. Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 1958.

9:~~40~~ a.m. (2) Revised Executive Order for the Commission of Fine Arts.

9:~~50~~ a.m. (3) Review of current problems:

a. Postage Stamp designs--discussion of situation resulting from rejection of Mr. Lahey's design for the Labor Day Stamp.

9:55 a.m. b. Constitution Avenue Bridge status.

10:05 a.m. c. Street light standards for the District of Columbia-discussion of status

10:20 a.m. d. National stadium site in the District of Columbia.

10:25 a.m. e. American Institute of Architect's Centennial Celebration, May 1957 - Plans for Commission of Fine Arts participation.

10:40 a.m. f. Great Plaza - status of plans for parking lot removal and development as park.

10:45 a.m. g. Smithsonian Institute Air Museum - review of site consideration.

11:00 a.m. h. Zoning in the District of Columbia - Lewis Plan and its probable effects.

11:25 a.m. i. District Highway Department--Inner Loop-threat to Lincoln Memorial Area.

11:30 a.m. (4) Treasury Department - Bureau of the Mint--Medal for Living Veterans of War Between the States.

11:35 a.m. (5) National Park Service submission--Kalmia Road Bridge in Rock Creek Park (Mr. Wm. M. Haussmann, National Capital Parks).

11:40 a.m. (6) American Battle Monuments Commission--Memorial to Gen. John J. Pershing.

11:45 a.m. (7) Icelandic National League subcommittee on the Liefr Erricsson Memorial-status of site and prospects of funds for erection.

11:50 a.m. (8) Patriotic Institute of the United States, Boston-Memorial to Haym M. Salomon; plans for funds, site, and eventual erection.

11:55 a.m. (9) Gift to the United States--Rainbow Monument, sculpture by George Grey Barnard.

12:00 noon (10) Legislation:

a. H. J. Res. 690/84th - Location of Federal buildings; report requested.

12:05 p.m. b. H. R. 12050/84th - Decoration of public buildings; report requested.

12:10 p.m. c. Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration - draft for legislation on decoration of public buildings.

12:15 p.m. (11) District of Columbia Highway Dept. - Bridge in Rock Creek Park at Military Road, NW (Mr. Gerard I. Sawyer, Chief, Off. of Planning, Design & Engineering; Mr. Wm. M. Haussmann, National Capital Parks) + Mr. John J. Grody, and of design,

12:45 p.m. (12) District of Columbia Supervising Architect - Municipal Building, proposed extension (Mr. Merrel A. Coe, Mr. Victor T. Civotovsky, Acting Dr., Dept. of Bldgs. & Grounds)

1:15 p.m. Lunch in Secretary's Dining Room, Interior Department

2:00 p.m. Reconvene, Room 7000 Interior Department Building

2:10 p.m. (13) Public Buildings Service - State Dept. Extension:

a. Progress drawings of facades. PBS, Mr. [illegible], and [illegible], M. T. Clifford Noonan, of Graham, Anderson Probst & White)

b. Plans for decoration - selection of sculptor and painter. (Mr. L. L. Hunter, Asst. Comm'r. for Design & Construction, PBS)

3:10 p.m. (14) Army Corps of Engineers, District Engineer's Office
(Col. George S. Sumner, Dist. Engineer, Mr. Daniel Twiddy, Arch. Consultant; Mr. Anthony P. Harrer, Arch.)

a. Walter Reed Medical Center:

1. Graduate School, Army Medical Service
2. Non-Commissioned Officers Open Mess
3. Post Chapel & Chaplain's Office

b. Fort Lesley J. McNair:

1. Revised design for Industrial War College
2. Row housing for non-commissioned officers
3. Apartment housing for officers

4:30 p.m. (15) Redevelopment Land Agency - progress of plans

a. Southwest Redevelopment

5:00 p.m. Adjournment

Index to Minutes of Meeting
The Commission of Fine Arts
13 September 1956

Air Museum, proposed
Location and design for 6
American Battle Monuments Commission
Site for memorial to General Pershing 8
American Institute of Architects
Centennial Celebration 5

Bakers & Confectionery Workers
Proposed headquarters building 17
Bridges in Rock Creek Park
Beach Drive and Broad Branch Road 8
Beach Drive and Kalmia Road 8
Beach Drive and Milkhouse Ford 8
Military Road 11
Bridge Statue, Constitution Avenue 3
Budget estimates FY 1958 1

Erricsson Memorial, Leifr
Removal from Newport News to Washington 9
Executive Order for Commission of Fine Arts 2

Great Plaza and Plans for Post Office
Department parking lot 5

Inner Loop
Threat to Lincoln Memorial 7

Legislation- Reports on
HR 690/84th Congress 10
HR 12060/ 84th Congress 11
Light Standards in the District of Columbia
Replacement of 4

McNair, Fort Lesley J.- new construction
Row housing for non commissioned officers 14
Apartment housing for officers 14

Municipal Building-preliminary sketches for
West Administration Wing 12

Postage Stamp Design, Labor Day
Rejection of 2

Rainbow Monument, The (by George Grey Barnard)
Removal from Philadelphia to District 10

Salomon, Memorial to Haym M.
Site for 9
Stadium, National
Site for 4
State Department extension
Revised design of elevations 12
Paintings and sculpture for 13

Veterans of War Between the States,
Medal for living 8

Walter Reed Medical Center
Addition to Army Medical Service Graduate School 14
NCO Open Mess 14
Chapel and Chaplain's Office 14

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS HELD

IN WASHINGTON, D. C. 13 and 14 September 1956

9:00 a.m.

A regular meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held in its offices in the Interior Department Building on 13 and 14 September 1956 with the following members in attendance:

Mr. David E. Finley, Chairman
Mr. Felix de Weldon
Mrs. Emily Muir
Mr. Douglas Orr
Mr. Elbert Peets
Mr. William Perry

Mr. L. R. Wilson, Secretary, was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by the Chairman. The minutes of the meeting on 14 June 1956, which had been forwarded to the members previously for reading, were approved.

The dates selected for the next meeting of the Commission were 10 and 11 October 1956.

The budget estimate of $35,000 for the fiscal year 1958 was presented and after careful discussion it was moved and seconded that the budget estimate of $35,000 be approved. The Bureau of the Budget had given preliminary approval of this sum and will hold formal hearings on the matter on or about 15 October 1956.

On motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

R E S O L V E D

That the members of the Commission of Fine Arts approve, and hereby they do approve, the budget estimate of $35,000 for the operation of the Commission of Fine Arts for the fiscal year 1958.

2) EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS. The members again expressed the desire to proceed with getting a new Executive Order issued. Mr. Peets gave a report on research he had done at the Library of Congress on how the Order should be written and the points to be emphasized. He believed that special emphasis should be placed on the reasons why a new order is needed at this time. At the conclusion of Mr. Peets' report, the Chairman stated that he believed that the text should not be too long nor too detailed as to specific duties or authority because these features are already well outlined and because the primary purpose of this Order would be to impress anew upon Federal Government and District of Columbia officials that they cannot ignore the Commission and take action before coming to the Commission for advice. The principal purpose of the new Executive Order is to emphasize the fact that the Commission has the right and the duty to go to the President and to Congress when it has been ignored or its advice disregarded. After lengthy discussion and careful consideration, it was agreed that part of the Order would be rewritten to list the duties in a decreasing order of importance. The Chairman stated this would be done, and that steps would be taken to submit the text to the proper officials of the President's staff before the meeting in October.

3-a) REJECTION OF DESIGN FOR LABOR DAY STAMP. The rejection of Mr. Richard Lahey's design for the Labor Day Stamp 1956, and its replacement by another design which was not referred to the Commission was pointed out by the Secretary as an instance in which the looseness of arrangements with the Post Office Department created a situation which was embarrassing to the artist and to the Commission. Although no formal request was registered by the Post Office Department with the Commission to give advice on the design of this stamp, the Commission actually carried out the same procedures that it would in the case of a formal submission. The Secretary said he would endeavor to confer with

Mr. Lahey and Post Office Department officials to get Mr. Lahey adequate compensation for his work, and to try to arrive at a working arrangement with the Post Office Department.

3-b) CONSTITUTION AVENUE BRIDGE STATUS. The Chairman reported that he and Mr. Wilson attended a meeting on July 30th in the office of Brigadier General Thomas A. Lane, Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, at which the legality of proceeding at once with plans for the bridge across the Potomac River at Constitution Avenue was discussed with representatives of the Interior Department, the National Capital Planning Commission and the District Commissioners. The Commissioners were raising the point because Congress had adjourned without the House Committee's having taken action to approve moving the site of the bridge northward to the new location over Roosevelt Island, and the District Highway Department officials wanted to get ahead with the work. Accordingly they were asking the General Accounting Office to render an opinion whether they would be justified in utilizing funds already allocated for the bridge at the authorized site. The General Accounting Office was not expected to give them any encouragement, and it was generally believed that the matter will probably be held in abeyance until the new Congress meets in January 1957.

Mr. Orr pointed out that funds authorized by the new highway bill that was passed by the 84th Congress, will be used to build this bridge, and it will then become an all-purpose bridge. He stated that he recalled this statement to have been made by Colonel Hunter, Assistant to the Engineer Commissioner at the meeting of the Commission with the National Capital Planning Commission on 14 June. Mr. Orr stated further that all-purpose use of this bridge is contrary to stipulations the President made when signing the bill; and that he believed this subject should now be reintroduced in an effort to make it clear to Congress that this bridge

will be an all-purpose bridge whose traffic will be even more detrimental to the Lincoln Memorial area than was originally feared. After further discussion, it was agreed that a study should be made for drafting a letter to the President giving the views of the Commission, for discussion at the meeting of the Commission on 10 October 1956. The Secretary was requested to collect the data for such a letter and to consult the District Commissioners and the Director of the National Capital Parks, if necessary.

3-c) REPLACEMENT OF THE LIGHT STANDARDS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. The Chairman reviewed the situation arising from the replacement of old street light standards by new highway type street light standards in the monumental areas, and asked the opinion of the members regarding the most recent installation around the Daughters of the American Revolution building. There was unanimous agreement that the new lights were destroying the fine relationship between buildings and the lighting that had been so carefully worked out here and on 14th Street adjacent to the Department of Commerce building. After careful consideration, it was agreed that a study of the technical phases that motivated changing from the old to the new type standards was desirable, and it was suggested that either Brigadier General Lane or Mr. J. N. Robertson, District Highway Engineer, be invited to attend the October meeting of the Commission to discuss the problem. In response to a telephone call from the Chairman, General Lane said he would be glad to come.

3-d) NATIONAL STADIUM SITE, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. The Secretary reviewed the latest developments surrounding the recent proposals for a Sports Centre for Washington by describing the three sites that have been proposed for a National Stadium. The approved site, balancing the Armory, at the end of East Capitol Street, was considerably reduced in size by the East Capitol Street Bridge

connection's having been run through the area. In July, Senator Case of South Dakota, who has taken an active interest in this problem, called a meeting of the various interested agencies in the Senate District Committee hearing room. Mr. Robertson, District Highway Engineer, and his assistant, Mr. Brinkley, unveiled a site plan and model for a stadium on the National Training School site at the District Line and Bladensburg Road, N. W. Calvin Griffith of the Washington Senators and George Marshall of the Washington Rams suggested redevelopment of the area around Griffith Stadium to the east of Georgia Avenue, N. W. Southwest Redevelopment Area C was suggested as a third site. The discussions were spirited but no conclusions were reached at the meeting. Senator Case seemed anxious to have the Commission of Fine Arts included in future meetings on this project. It was agreed that this was a matter of interest to the Commission and it was suggested that it could well be considered in a joint meeting with the National Capital Planning Commission, at a date to be determined after consultation with the National Capital Planning Commission.

3-e) AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. The Chairman read a letter he had received from Mr. Arthur B. Holmes, Staff Executive for the Centennial Observance Committee, and reported on a meeting he and the Secretary attended on 21 August 1956 to discuss the Centennial Celebration of the American Institute of Architects which is to be held during the week of May 14-17,1957. The Chairman stated his willingness to assist in working out a program for a joint meeting with the Institute for a half a day during that week. It was agreed that the Commission of Fine Arts should cooperate with the Institute in every way possible and work out the details in future meetings with the AIA Committee.

3-f) STATUS OF GREAT PLAZA AND PLANS FOR PARKING LOT. The Secretary reported that work had started on developing the 12th Street court of the Post

Office Department grounds as a special vehicular access for the Postmaster General; also that parking facilities had been installed in the west hemicycle facing the Great Plaza in accordance with the approval registered by the Commission at the meetings on 10 May and 14 June 1956. However, nothing seemed to have been done about improving the Great Plaza itself. The Chairman said that, in a recent discussion of this matter with Mr. F. Moran McConihe, Commissioner of Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, Mr. McConihe stated that General Services Administration had a long-range plan to remove temporary buildings, and it was his belief, that they could not develop this area as a park and plaza until replacement buildings have been erected on the sites of the present Coast Guard Building, E Street at Pennsylvania, and the District Building. Disappointment over the delay in starting the planning for the work was registered. The Secretary was directed to draft a letter to the Administrator of General Services Administration pointing out that the Commission of Fine Arts had agreed to the establishment of a parking lot for use of the officials of the Post Office Department, and to the creation of a vehicular access on the east side of the building with the understanding that the General Services Administration would take steps during the ensuing year to plan for the elimination of the parking concession and for the improvement of the Great Plaza in conformity with the original ideas that were developed when the Federal Triangle was designed. (Exhibit One).

3-g)SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION - LOCATION AND DESIGN OF PROPOSED AIR MUSEUM.

Mr. Orr referred to previous discussions of the location of the Smithsonian's Air Museum and pointed out that the proposed building had then been considered to be too large and out of scale with the other buildings on the South Mall. He said that he had the opportunity to review the model and the drawings for the Museum of History and Technology in the architect's office and it was his opinion that the proposed Air Museum building as designed would be in excellent scale

and not oversize for the location at the head of 10th Street, Southwest, and suggested that the matter be reopened. After discussion, it was proposed that the Chairman first discuss the matter with the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission to determine the advisability of bringing the matter up again.

3-h) THE LEWIS PLAN FOR REZONING IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. The Secretary gave a brief description of the current zoning study and explained that Mr. Harold M. Lewis, a zoning expert, had been hired a year ago by the District of Columbia Commissioners to restudy the zoning code in Washington. The proposed plan was recently given out for public reaction to it, and for discussions before the Commissioners formally considered it. It met with such wide-spread criticism that Mr. Lewis then publicly announced that certain controversial provisions, mainly about land coverage and off-street parking spaces were being softened, or, in some cases, dropped completely from his report. After discussion, it was agreed that the Lewis Plan had much merit; but, from the Commission's viewpoint, the chief criticism was that Mr. Lewis had replanned the city of Washington by zoning. The Secretary was directed to discuss the matter with the Director of the National Capital Planning Commission, and to ascertain whether joint action could be taken on stressing the necessity of guiding zoning with a well-developed over-all plan.

3-i) DISTRICT HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT- Inner Loop threat to Lincoln Memorial Area. Mr. Orr cited the publicity given recent announcements of highway developments in Washington, and expressed the belief that the Commission should take some action to forestall any use of the proposed Inner Loop by trucks. He said that it was his understanding that funds made available by the new highway bill, (Public Law 627/84th Congress) could also now be applied to construction of the Inner Loop. After discussion, the Secretary was directed to combine the data for this matter with the data he had been asked to prepare about the Constitution Avenue Bridge.

4) TREASURY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF THE MINT - Medal for Living Veterans of War Between the States

The Secretary showed the members of the Commission photographs of plaster models for a medal for living veterans of the War between the States (Public Law 730/84th Congress). The models had been submitted by the Bureau of the Mint and then withdrawn without Commission of Fine Arts action because of pressure to meet an October 1st production schedule. The medal carried the super-imposed profile likenesses of General Robert E. Lee and General Ulysses S. Grant on one side, with the shields of the North and the South on the reverse side. After discussion the members agreed that they could not approve the design as presented, and the Secretary was directed to prepare a letter so advising the Acting Director of the Mint. (Exhibit Two).

5) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SUBMISSION, BRIDGES IN ROCK CREEK PARK. Mr. William Haussmann, Chief Architect, National Capital Parks, presented drawings for proposed bridges in Rock Creek Park at Beach Drive and Kalmia Road, Beach Drive and Broad Branch Road, and Beach Drive at Milkhouse Ford. All the bridges were reinforced concrete rigid-frame spans with aluminum railings and ashlar-faced abutments. After explanation of the designs for the bridges, it was moved and seconded that the designs as presented be approved.

On motion, duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

R E S O L V E D

That the members of the Commission of Fine Arts approve, and hereby they do approve, the design for three bridges in Rock Creek Park at Beach Drive and Kalmia Road, Beach Drive and Broad Branch Road, and Beach Drive at Milkhouse Ford, as presented by Mr. Haussmann, Chief Architect, National Capital Parks.

6) AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION - Site for Memorial to General John J. Pershing.

The Secretary read a letter from Colonel William A. Walker, Administrative Officer, The American Battle Monuments Commission, stating that the members of

the American Battle Monuments Commission had informally indicated their willingness to adopt the Commission of Fine Arts' proposal that the Pershing Memorial incorporate a fountain as the major design element, if it could be assured of the Pennsylvania Avenue-14th Street, 15th Street site. This action was noted favorably, but, inasmuch as the National Capital Planning Commission had also indicated its intention to study at an early date the question of other agencies' desire to use the same site for other projects, it was agreed to defer action until the Planning Commission has reached some conclusion. (Exhibit Three)

7) ICELANDIC NATIONAL LEAGUE subcommittee on the Leifr Erricsson Memorial.

The Secretary reported that a new law (Public Law #910) was passed by the 84th Congress authorizing that the bronze replica of the statue of Leifr Erricsson be brought from the Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia, to Washington and erected at a site to be selected. No funds were included in this legislation for transporting and erecting the statue. The members of the Commission considered carefully the request of G. Grimson, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of North Dakota and Chairman of the Leifr Erricsson Memorial subcommittee, for advice on obtaining funds for the purpose. The Secretary was directed to write Justice Grimson that no government appropriations were available and to suggest that the only recourse would seem to be to private subscription. (Exhibit Four).

8) PATRIOTIC INSTITUTE OF THE UNITED STATES - Memorial to Haym M. Salomon.

The Secretary reported on a conference held in his office with Mr. John Nolen, Director, National Capital Planning Commission, Mr. Robert C. Horne, National Capital Parks, Mr. Franklin Fisher of the Patriotic Institute of the United States, Boston, and Mr. Alexander J. Illich, architect, New York, regarding the plans for a memorial to Haym Salomon which had been authorized by Public Res. #124, 74th Congress. The purpose of the conference was to discuss in a general way the problem of where such a memorial should best be placed, what

it should comprise, and approximately how much it should cost. All arrangements will be made by the Patriotic Institute of the United States. Mr. Fisher stated that, at this time, they merely wanted to meet the representatives of the agencies with whom they would have to work. Several locations were discussed but no decision reached. A site in the Revoluntionary hero area, possibly in combination with any building built on the east side of Lafayette Square, seemed most logical. Mr. Fisher said he would return later when his plans were more firm.

9) GIFT TO THE UNITED STATES - Rainbow Monument, sculpture, by George Grey Barnard

The Secretary read a letter that had been received from Mr. Monroe Grey Barnard regarding a large group of statuary, entitled "The Rainbow Monument", by his father, George Grey Barnard. Mr. Barnard stated that his father had left the monument as a gift to the Nation and it was now stored in the Philadelphia Museum of Art. He described the Monument as being made of white marble and comprising nearly 50 figures depicting the struggle of humanity in its efforts to free mankind from the shackles of conflict. Mr. Barnard stated that his interest lay in completing the gift to the Nation and asked advice of the Commission on how to accomplish this. The Secretary reported that he had advised Mr. Barnard that such a monumental piece of work would require an act of Congress and an appropriation of funds to defray the expenses of having the monument transported and set up in Washington. The Secretary also stated that representatives of General Services Administration and the National Capital Parks had not been encouraging when he inquired about possible use of the sculpture in Washington. No further action was indicated in the absence of any reply from Mr. Barnard.

10-a) LEGISLATION. The Chairman reported the Commission of Fine Arts had been requested to report on H. J. Res. 690/84th Congress, by Honorable

Frank Thompson, Jr., a joint resolution to preserve the economic basis of the Nation's Capital by establishing a basic policy and orderly procedure for the location of new Federal buildings in the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia. After consideration the Secretary was instructed to write a report for the Chairman's signature. (Exhibit Five)

10-b) The Chairman reported that the Commission had also been asked to report on H. R. 12060/84th Congress, a bill "To provide for decorative art in Federal Buildings", introduced by Honorable Frank Thompson, Jr. After consideration the Secretary was instructed to write a report that the members of the Commission of Fine Arts had always worked for more utilization of decorative arts in public buildings, and is working in close cooperation with the Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration to achieve this aim. (Exhibit Six).

11) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT - Bridge in Rock Creek Park at Military Road, N. W.

Mr. Gerard I. Sawyer, Chief, Office of Planning, and Mr. John Grady, Design Architect, for the District of Columbia, and Mr. William M. Haussmann, Chief Architect of the National Capital Parks, presented drawings for the proposed bridge in Rock Creek Park at Military Road. The design consisted of a rigid-frame reinforced concrete structure with aluminum guard rails and ashlar-faced abutments. The drawings were discussed in detail after which it was moved and seconded that the drawings be approved as presented.

On motion, duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

R E S O L V E D

That the members of the Commission of Fine Arts approve, and hereby they do approve, the drawings as submitted for the bridge in Rock Creek Park at Military Road.

12) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SUPERVISING ARCHITECT, Municipal Building proposed extension.

Mr. Merrel A. Coe, Supervising Architect, and Mr. Victor T. Givotovsky, Acting Director, Department of Buildings and Grounds for the District of Columbia, informally presented preliminary sketches for a new West Administration building, balancing the Municipal Building at Sixth and C Streets, N. W. Mr. Coe said the problem was complicated by the need of more space than was contemplated when the original scheme for the Civic Center was made about 30 years ago, and two symmetrical buildings to house the District Government were planned. It was suggested to Mr. Coe that a balanced composition rather than a strictly symmetrical one was possibly feasible, but it was difficult to give him more than a general opinion without studies to compare. He was thanked for having presented the plans in a preliminary stage, and was invited to confer with the Commission again as soon as his office has been able to develop the sketch plans further.

13-a) PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE, State Department Extension. Mr. Fred S. Poorman, Deputy Commissioner, Mr. L. L. Hunter, Assistant Commissioner for Design and Construction, Public Buildings Service, Mr. T. Clifford Noonan of Graham, Anderson, Probst and White, Architects presented the revised design of the elevations of the State Department Annex. Large perspective drawings of the four facades were shown. In them were incorporated the suggestions resulting from a special conference in New York with Mr. Orr and Mr. Harrison on 17 July 1956. The members of the Commission agreed that the design now appeared to be consistent throughout and to have largely met the suggestions made by the members of the Commission and it was suggested that the drawings as presented be approved.

Upon motion, duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

R E S O L V E D

That the members of the Commission of Fine Arts approve, and hereby they do approve, the revised drawings of the elevations of the State Department Annex as submitted.

13-b) Following discussion of the facades for the proposed State Department Annex, Mr. L. L. Hunter, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Design, General Services Administration, brought up the problem of providing suitable decorative sculpture and painting for the State Department. He stated that a sum of approximately $200,000 had been allocated for this purpose and that a program for use of decorative art in the building would be prepared. Mr. Marshall Fredericks, a sculptor, was being considered to collaborate with the architects in preparing a program for the sculptural adornment of the building, and approval of Mr. Fredericks being hired in this capacity was desired.

All the members of the Commission agreed that $200,000 was inadequate to furnish decorative art for a building of the State Department's importance, especially when the total cost of the building was considered. Mr. Orr urged that steps be taken to increase the funds and that a program also be prepared which will give the State Department an appropriate number of works of art of the best quality that American talent can produce.

The majority of the members agreed that Mr. Fredericks be authorized to prepare a sculpture program in which the talents of more than one sculptor will be utilized, and that Mr. Fredericks' assistance in preparing the program should not exclude him later from execution of a part of the program, if that is desired. Mrs. Muir stressed, however, that the size of the building required the employment of artists other than sculptors, and that similar programs for other decorative work should be initiated. Mr. Hunter said this would be done and the programs will be submitted to us as soon as they are advanced to a suitable stage for study. It was also stressed that the desires of the State Department in the

matter should be determined and make a basis of any program that was set up. The Secretary was instructed to write a letter to the General Services Administration incorporating these views. (Exhibit Seven).

14) U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DISTRICT ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

(a) New construction at Walter Reed Medical Center. Colonel George B. Sumner, District Engineer, Mr. Daniel Twiddy, Architectural Consultant, and Mr. Anthony F. Harrer, Architect, presented drawings and renderings for a) Addition to Army Medical Service Graduate School, b) NCO Open Mess, and c) Chapel and Chaplain's Office, at Walter Reed Medical Center. Mr. Harrer explained the drawings for each of the projects in detail and after discussion, it was moved that each project be approved as presented.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

R E S O L V E D

That the members of the Commission of Fine Arts approve, and hereby they do approve, drawings for a) addition to Army Medical Service Graduate School, b) NCO Open Mess, and c) Chapel and Chaplain's Office at Walter Reed Medical Center.

(b) New construction at Fort Lesley J. McNair. Colonel George B. Sumner, District Engineer, and Mr. Daniel Twiddy, Architectural Consultant, presented the drawings for, 1) Row housing for non-commissioned officers; and 2) Apartment housing for officers, to be located on the East side of the parade ground at Fort Lesley J. McNair.

In the discussion it was brought out that the erection of buildings of this design will introduce an unfortunate and unharmonious element into the monumental plan which was established for the growth of the War College when it was originally laid out. The design of the buildings as indicated on the drawings, appeared to follow a housing pattern used in all army posts, and did not

seem to be of sufficient architectural merit to compare favorably with the existing buildings at Fort McNair. The members expressed the hope that some consideration can be given to developing a more suitable scheme for the units of this important military establishment in the Nation's Capital, and the Secretary was instructed to write a letter to this effect. (Exhibit Eight).

The Commission adjourned at 4:30 p.m. to reconvene the following morning at 9 a.m.

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

28 September 1956

Dear Mr. Floete:

At a meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts on 13 September 1956, the members of the Commission restudied the situation that now exists in the parking concession in the Great Plaza.

It was recalled that during our meeting in June, which Mr. F. M. McConihe and Mr. L. L. Hunter attended, the Commission of Fine Arts agreed to the establishment of a parking lot for the use of the officials of the Post Office Department in the hemicycle on the west side of the Post Office Building, and to the creation of a vehicular access on the east side of the building through the semi-circular court on 12th Street. The Commission made this agreement with the understanding that the General Services Administration would take steps during the ensuing year to plan for the elimination of the parking concession and for improvement of the Great Plaza in conformity with the original ideas that were developed when the Federal Triangle was designed.

We hope that you will soon be able to show us sketch plans for initiation of this important project, so that it can be accomplished in a timely and progressive manner.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Franklin G. Floete
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

cc-Honorable Harland Bartholomew
Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission

EXHIBIT ONE

COPY

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

13 September 1956

Dear Mr. Howard:

At a meeting held this morning, the members of the Commission of Fine Arts considered the photographs of the plaster models for the obverse and reverse of a medal for survivors of the War between the States. Although you withdrew the models on 7 September in order to start production of the medal, the members have asked me to write you their views on the design.

They agreed that they could not approve the design as presented. It was their opinion that neither of the profile heads of the two Generals was more than a fair likeness, and it seemed to them to be unwise practically and aesthetically to overlap them. If used each General should be separate, just as two shields on the other side are separate. The lettering on both sides is poorly spaced and some of the individual letters, especially the letter (s), are poor in form.

This is the third instance in recent months where there has not been adequate time for a study of the design to be made. We hope that steps will be taken to allow sufficient time in the future.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Leland Howard
Acting Director of the Mint
Treasury Department
Washington 25, D. C.

EXHIBIT TWO

Copy

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

October 1, 1956

Dear Colonel Walker:

I read your letter of September 5th to the members of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on 13 September 1956, and they discussed the willingness of the American Battle Monuments Commission to consider designing the memorial to General John J. Pershing in the form of a fountain. It was noted that the Planning Commission has also indicated to you that it is its intention to take up this matter at an early date. It would accordingly be premature for the Commission of Fine Arts to commit itself definitely on the use of this site until the Planning Commission has completed its action. If this has been done by the date of our next meeting on 10 October 1956, the Commission will consider the matter at that time.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Executive Secretary

Colonel William A. Walker
Administrative Officer
The American Battle Monuments Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

EXHIBIT
Three

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

1 October 1956

My dear Justice Grimson:

I read your letter of 22 August to the members of the Commission of Fine Arts when they met on 13 September 1956. As you are probably aware, the Commission of Fine Arts never receives appropriations for money to erect monuments of any kind and it is, therefore very difficult for us to be of any specific help to you in this matter. I have checked with some of the other agencies of the Government but have been unable to locate any unallocated funds which could be used for work of this nature.

I regret that the situation here looks so discouraging but hope your association will be able to arouse enough popular interest to raise the amount needed. The site that was previously chosen for this statue would probably still be available, although no formal action has been taken on this phase of the problem. Please write me if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Executive Secretary

Mr. Justice Grimson
Supreme Court
Bismarck, North Dakota

EXHIBIT Four

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
Washington 25, D. C.

22 October 1956

Dear Mr. Chairman:

At a meeting on 13 September 1956, the members of the Commission of Fine Arts discussed H. J. RES. 690/84th Congress, a Joint Resolution "To preserve the economic basis of the Nation's Capital by establishing a basic policy and an orderly procedure for the location of new Federal Buildings in the metropolitan area of the District of Columbia." We understand that the Honorable Frank Thompson, Jr., House of Representatives, has requested the Commission's views on this resolution through your Committee.

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts believe that the Constitution is very clear in the intention to locate the agencies of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia. The Congress and the President have, from time to time, established agencies such as the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission, with duties to recommend directions in which the Capital City can be developed and grow. Rapid growth has made the location of government agencies within this area a very technical matter of city planning, and policies for such placement should, the Commission believes, not be determined except after the pursuance of a technical survey. It seems that the planning agencies, in general, are the logical authorities to determine the precise locations for agencies, and that the approval of such plans should stem from their studies. We have never supported the idea that the heads of agencies should be allowed to choose the sites for their new buildings without conformity to the development of the overall plan of Washington, and we hope that it will be possible for Congress to support the planning agencies in their efforts to decide the problems involved rather than making congressional approval mandatory as proposed in H.J.Res. 690/84th Congress.

Another factor that should not be overlooked in this problem is the growing tendency of commerce, industry, and national organization headquarters, etc., to move into land reserved for government expansion. Established government-taking areas have been destroyed by the zoning process and utilized for purposes other than was intended. It is a fundamental principle of the Commission of Fine Arts that, in all these considerations, the preservation of the Federal City is the primary problem on which attention should be focused, and other spaces and means should be found to accommodate the components of the city which are only incidental to the functioning of the government.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Charles A. Buckley
Chairman
House Committee on Public Works
1304 House Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

EXHIBIT FIVE

copy

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 INTERIOR DEPARTMENT BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

22 October 1956

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your letter of July 2nd requested the views of the Commission of Fine Arts on H. R. 12060/84th Congress, a bill "to provide for decorative art in Federal Buildings."

The Commission of Fine Arts considered H. R. 12060 at a meeting on 13 September and discussed the provisions of this bill in detail. It is a matter of record that the Commission of Fine Arts has always worked for more utilization of decorative arts in public buildings, and the members have regretted the slow pace at whichresumption of such programs has been undertaken since the end of World War II, when projects of this kind were completely interrupted.

We have been studying means of achieving these ends during the past six months, with the Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration. Experience indicates that the percentage method of arriving at a sum for the decoration of a building may not be the most satisfactory because it produces a serious imbalance between large and small projects and does not always permit equitable provision of decorative art for all projects. Our studies have gradually narrowed themselves to a plan whereby a sum of money should be appropriated to the General Services Administration for use to accomplish this purpose. The allocation and administration of such funds would then become a joint responsibility between the Commission of Fine Arts and the Public Buildings Service. In this way decorative art could be commissioned in amount and quality to harmonize with the architectural framework of the building that is projected.

We also believe that the Commission of Fine Arts should be included in the early stages of consultation as regards location and design of proposed buildings so that we can effectively advise the Public Buildings Service and the agency head in these matters as well as in the selection of the artists to decorate the buildings. We hope that you will consider these ideas in any revision which may be contemplated for legislation on this subject.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your Committee.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Charles A. Buckley
Chairman
House Committee on Public Works
1304 House Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

EXHIBIT SIX

copy

COPY

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

5 October 1956

Dear Mr. Floete:

During the course of our discussion of the plans for the proposed State Department annex with your representatives on 13 September 1956, the problem of providing suitable decorative sculpture and painting for the building was raised. We were advised that a sum of approximately $200,000 has been allocated for this purpose, and that Mr. Marshall Fredericks, a sculptor, was being considered to collaborate with the architects in preparing a program for the sculptural adornment of the building.

We believe that $200,000 is inadequate to furnish decorative art for a building of the State Department's importance, especially when the total cost of the building is considered. We hope steps can be taken to increase the funds so that a program can be initiated which will give the State Department an appropriate number of works of art of the best quality that American talent can produce.

The members of the Commission agreed to the suggestion that Mr. Fredericks be authorized to prepare a sculpture program in which the talents of more than one sculptor will be utilized, and they believe that Mr. Fredericks' assistance in preparing the program should not exclude him later from execution of a part of the program, if that is desired. We wish to stress, however, that the size of the building will allow for the employment of artists other than sculptors, and that a comprehensive program should also include works by painters and designers in the crafts.

The determination of such a program is important now while the building is still in a formative stage and constructive ideas that arise may still be incorporated.

Sincerely yours,

David E. Finley
Chairman

Honorable Franklin G. Floete
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

COPY

EXHIBIT Seven

C O P Y

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
7000 Interior Department Building
Washington 25, D. C.

1 October 1956

Dear Colonel Sumner:

At a meeting on 13 September the Commission of Fine Arts considered the drawings which your office submitted for, 1) Row housing for non-commissioned officers; and 2) Apartment housing for officers, to be located on the East side of the parade ground at Fort Lesley J. McNair.

The members of the Commission believe that the erection of these buildings will introduce an unfortunate and unharmonious element into the monumental plan which was established for the growth of the War College when it was originally laid out. The design of the buildings as indicated on the drawings, appears to follow a housing pattern used in all army posts, and does not seem to be of sufficient merit to compare favorably with the existing buildings at Fort McNair. We hope that some consideration can be given to developing a more suitable scheme for the units of this important establishment in the Nation's Capital.

We will be happy to consider further studies you may wish to develop. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on 10 and 11 October, 1956.

Sincerely yours,

L. R. Wilson
Executive Secretary

Colonel George B. Sumner
Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army
District Engineer
1st and Douglas Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Copy

Exhibit Eight

MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

FRIDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1956

ORDER OF BUSINESS

9:00 a.m. Convene, Room 7000 Interior Department Building

9:00 a.m. (16) Proposed building for "Evening Star" (Mr. Waldron Faulkner of Faulkner, Kingsbury & Stenhouse)

9:05 a.m. (17) Shipstead-Luce submissions, preliminary:

a. Aviation Building, west side of Lafayette Square, NW (Mr. George Dolby of Associated Architects & Engr's.)

9:15 a.m. b. Peoples Life Insurance Building ([redacted], Mr. George W. Petticord of [redacted] Mills, Petticord & Mills; [redacted]

9:45 a.m. c. Parking Garage at 1335 F Street, NW (Mr. Hewitt Wells; [redacted]; Mr. D. F. Antonelli, Secy-Treas., [redacted] of Auto Centers, Inc.) [redacted]

10:15 a.m. (18) Legislation, Draft--Congressman Thompson's proposal to increase duties of the Commission of Fine Arts.

10:45 a.m. (19) Shipstead-Luce Act submissions, formal (See Appendix 1)

11:30 a.m. (20) National Headquarters Building of Bakers and Confectionery Union, 16th & K Sts., NW.

11:40 a.m. (21) Construction Program for Federal Bldgs.

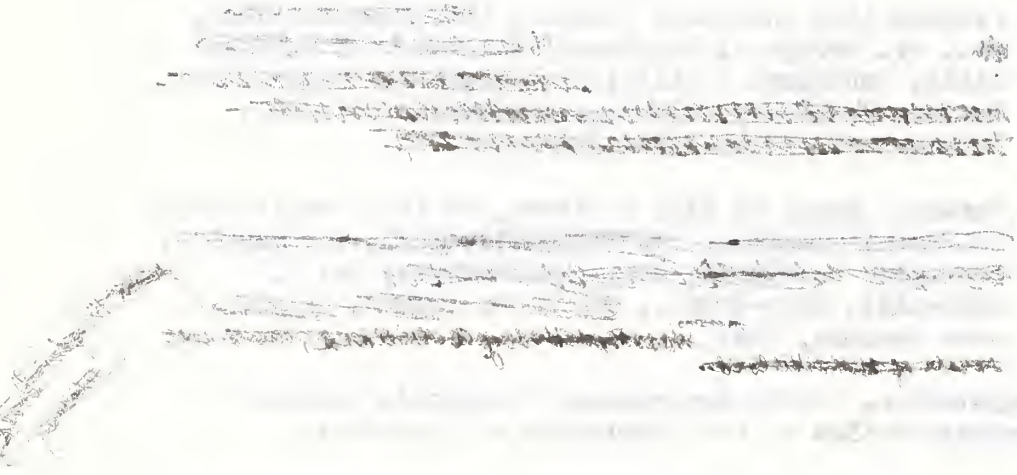
11:50 a.m. (22) General William Mitchell statue--progress report.

~~12:00 noon~~ (23) ~~Fine Collection of Art, Inspection of Art objects.~~ Mr. Paul E. Garber, Head Curator, Natl. Air Museum, Smithsonian Inst.

~~12:30 p.m. Adjourn~~

Lunch at 12:00

Adjourned at 3:40



APPENDIX 1

(19) Shipstead-Luce Act submissions, formal:

(a) SL 1879 1329 E St., NW--1 140-sq-ft, single-faced sign.

(b) SL 1891 5724 Oregon Ave., NW--2 story masonry dwelling.

(c) SL 1892 5728 Oregon Ave., NW--2 story brick dwelling.

(d) SL 1893 2017 Va. Ave., NW--1 single-faced, 334 sq-ft white neon sign.

(e) SL 1894 2601 Conn. Ave., NW--1 single-faced, 6'x9" sign.

(f) SL 1897 2708 Va. Ave., NW--Addition & alterations to gas station.

(g) SL 1898 3550 Williamsburg Lane, NW--1 story, brick & frame dwelling, & retaining wall.

(h) SL 1899 1601 No. Portal Dr., NW--1 story, brick & cinder-block dwelling & doctor's office.

(i) SL 1900 403-11th St., NW--Extend glass showcase under existing marquis. Will extend 2'-10" beyond bldg. line.

(j) SL 1901 5720 Oregon Ave., NW--2-story, brick & cinder-block dwelling.

(k) SL 1902 425-13th St., NW--1 7½ sq-ft, single-faced sign.

(l) SL 1903 1749 F St., NW--1 single-faced, 24½ sq-ft sign.

(m) SL 1904 1751 F St., NW--1 single-faced, 24½ sq-ft sign.

(n) SL 1905 1751 F St., NW--1 single-faced, 23.75 sq-ft sign.

(o) SL 1906 525-16th St., NW--2-story brick & concrete office bldg. Alter interior partitions of 1735 NY Ave. & make connection to new bldg.